

TRANSFORMATION OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP OFFICER TRAINING AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN HUNGARY

LTC Zoltan Krajnc PhD

Associate professor of National University of Public Service, Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training
(H-1101 Budapest, X. Hungária krt. 9-11.; +36308944346; krajnc.zoltan@uni-nke.hu)

Abstract: The paper is an examination of thinking and practice about transformation of training of military leaders at bachelor level in National University of Public Service in Hungary. After the change of the government in 2010 the newly formed defence leadership, in their desire to establish a more modern defence force considered the transformation of the system of leadership training as the basic element. A group consisting of specialists from the Ministry of Defence, the Staff and the then existing Zrinyi Miklos University of National Defence, worked out a concept accepted by the Minister of Defence. The paper try show result of work of these group.

Key words: military education, curriculum development, military leadership, Hungarian higher education system.

INTRODUCTION

In all historic times the education and training of military leaders defined the picture and the operational quality of the military. All military powers are aware of this basic truth. If they want to change the military forces supervised by them / the HDF /, the most effective method that works in the long run is the transformation or reform of the education.

After the change of the government in 2010 the newly formed defense leadership, in their desire to establish a more modern defense force considered the transformation of the system of leadership training as the basic element. A group consisting of specialists from the Ministry of Defense, the Staff and the then existing Zrinyi Miklos University of National Defense, worked out a concept accepted by the Minister of Defense. According to this concept the process of the transformation of the basic military leadership started immediately. In the future, according to this decision, beginning from the academic year of 2013/2014, the education of young cadets takes place in three areas: the renewed military leadership, the newly established military logistics and the military operational faculties.

In this study we show the process of the transformation and renewal of the basic military leadership and its current state.

1. THE PREVIOUS STATE AND THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRANSFORMING BRANCH

The current basic education of the changed leadership branch, the so-called “*credit/ eight semester*” type education, was verified by resolution 2004/VIII/54 of the Hungarian Accreditation Committee. The education started in 2005 and there have been 4 graduations so far. In 2008/2009 during the transformation and accreditation process at the Zrinyi Miklos National Defense University, the Accreditation Committee established that the new system produced good results. However, as there were no graduated students in the spring of 2009, formally the accreditation could not take place.

Officially the education lasted for 7 semesters/210 credit points/, however, there was a so-called “*zero semester*” when the students took part in language and driving lessons. This



Figure 1 Structure of old military leadership training at bachelor level

semester was not an integral part of the higher education, the students did not have an official “*student status*” and there were no credits accrued.

In 2005 there were 8 specialization branches accredited officially. They were the traditional infantry, armor, reconnaissance, artillery, air traffic control, air force, engineer, military cartography, and geo information branches. At the Air Force department, due to financial constraints and conceptual changes of the education, there was no training, while the training of air traffic controllers and engineers was transferred to the Bolyai Janos military college, which later became the military engineer faculty.

2. REDRAFTED REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

The process of transformation and renewal started with the articulation of requirements for the future graduates, with the draft of the main competency skills at the end of the education and with the composition of the general basic principles of the education process.

The official requirements for the future graduate students were the following:

- Loyalty to the nation and its armed forces.
- Exemption of politics.
- Public service ethos.
- Willpower, comradeship, stamina in reaching goals.
- Decision making ability, responsibility for decisions and subordinates.
- Hierarchy awareness, respect.
- Knowledge of historic and military traditions, respect of the uniform.

Requirements for cadets in basic education:

- to acquire basic military competence;
- professional knowledge and skills for the leadership of military units (platoon, company);
- ability to perform tasks in international environment, in different peacekeeping operations, in different religious, ethnic and cultural circumstances;
- acquisition of basic public service knowledge;
- excellent mental, physical and psychological state;
- ability to communicate in the English language;
- media knowledge;
- ability to evaluate achievement.

There was a question about how education would change and renew itself. What should be the basic principles of the new educational process?

The following can be accepted as the basic principles for the new basic, master and higher leadership education process:

- leadership ability-centered education;
- more flexible resource activities, possibility of retraining;
- effective, intensive one-year masters courses;
- two-level advanced leadership course;

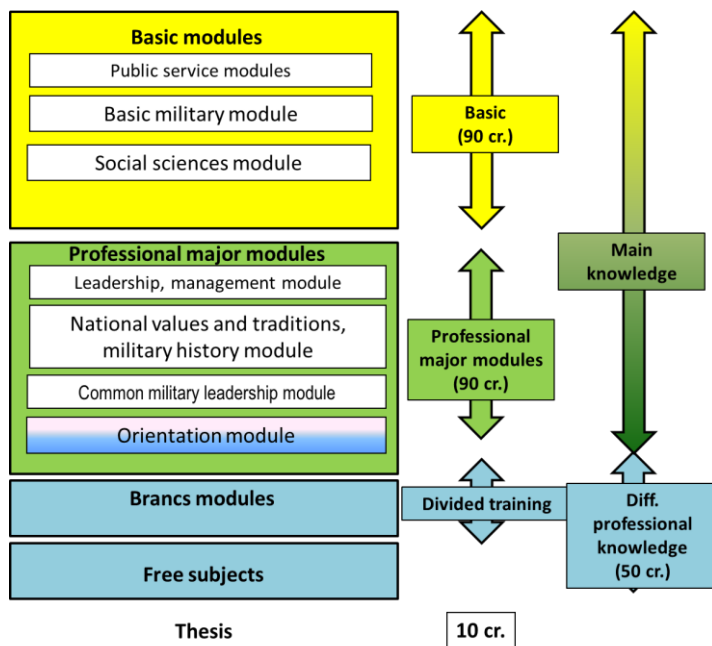


Figure 2 Structure of new military leadership training at bachelor level

- creation of conditions for public service permeability;
- more effective promotion system;
- reconventional education, in compliance with the professional career model.

The educational model could start in 2013, with the first results in 2019.

The introduction of the general requirements was followed by redefinition of the “*educational and outgoing requirements*” worked out by the specialists from the HDF General Staff, in cooperation with the leaders and the leading teachers from the Institute of Military Leadership of the faculty of Military Science.

3. THE STRUCTURE OF THE TRANSFORMED BASIC MILITARY LEADER BRANCH

Very strict basic requirements were established for the transformation:

- The military basic training still need to be integrated into the eight-semester, 240 credit points educational program, together with the so-called “public service education” module (approximately 420 hours, 30 credit points). The introduction of the “common university subjects” the new career model and the ethos of public service are provided.

- The cadet specialization program continues after a so-called “*orientation phase*” in the 7th-8th term.

- The specialization courses were established according to the following: traditional infantry, armour, recce, artillery, and engineers. Besides them, air defence artillery, and NBC leadership education is provided.

- The university education is supplemented by the “*military socialization*” course for the cadets arranged by the Hungarian National Ludovika battalion, its everyday activities and training system helps the students to practice the acquired skills.

The material to learn for the future competence is arranged into three big parts, called modules, including “*sub-modules*”.

They are the following:

Basic modules

- public service;
- basic military knowledge;
- development of leadership skills.

Professional major (staff) modules

- national military values, traditions and military history;
- common military leadership;
- orientation;

- PT and language (no credits).

4. EDUCATION GOALS OF THE PLANNED SPECIALISATION AND COMPETENCE

The specialization modules are different at the seven planned special courses due to the differentiation in the professional requirements and the specifics of the branches.

Infantry

The aim of the training for infantry for the HDF infantry sub-units is the training of officers with advanced level degree of education for the first officer level. These officers must be able to lead their units according to their professional knowledge of the general military and the infantry. They must also be able to organize, plan and lead the everyday life of their subordinates, to use the special equipment of their unit and to maintain it in workable condition.

An infantry officer must:

- know how to use effectively, the fire support systems of his/her unit, the operation of the fire support system of the battalion, and its theoretical and practical aspects;
- have knowledge of the logistic support of the infantry platoon or company;
- have relevant knowledge of military technology of other countries;
- know about the methods of platoon and company training and preparation;
- know how to prepare military equipment before using it;

He/she must be able:

- to lead the battle of a platoon or company in the field;
- to organize the fire of the sub-unit and to coordinate the movement of units;
- to apply theory, to plan, organize and lead the activities of the unit;
- to plan peacekeeping procedures and to lead the unit in this case;
- to plan, organize and conduct strategic complex and shooting exercises (section, platoon, company);
- to organize and lead activities of the platoon, company, connected with marching, relaxation, transportation;
- coordination of activities of the formations of the infantry company and the supporting forces;
- to lead the activities of the infantry platoon in the case of independent operations;
- to plan, organize and maintain survival procedures of the infantry platoon or company;
- recce, fire request, fire adjustment, destruction reports for field artillery;

He/she must be able:

- to fulfil tasks of infantry platoon leadership, after short preparation those of a company

Armour

The aim of the training is to prepare first level officers with high level degree for the armoured units of the HDF. Their tasks include battle training, organization, planning and leadership of the everyday activities of their platoons, as well as responsibility for the operational condition of the unit's equipment.

Reconnaissance

The aim of the training is to prepare first level officers with advanced degree of education, for the recce units of the HDF who, on the basis of their acquired professional knowledge, are able to plan, organize and lead their units. They are able to take care of their unit's equipment and keep it in operational condition.

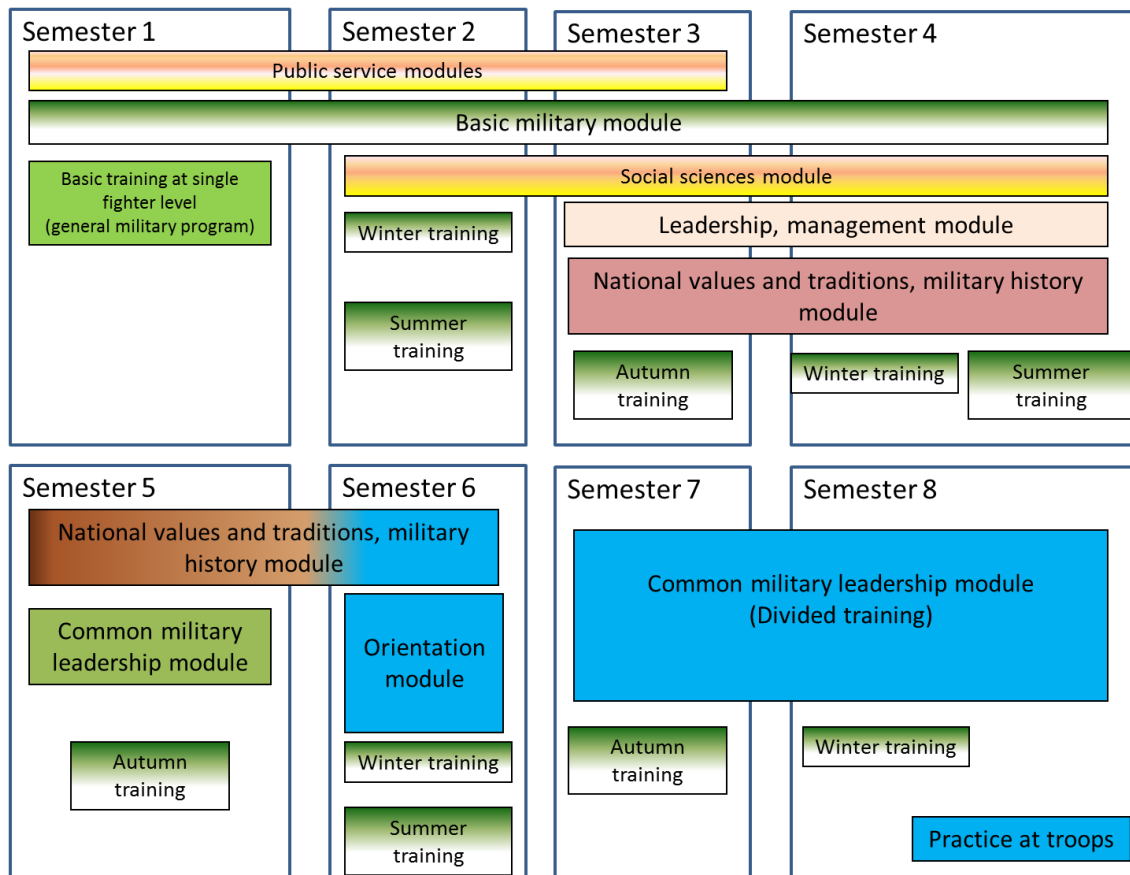


Figure 3 Timeline of new military leadership training at bachelor level

Artillery

The aim of the training is to provide the HDF with artillery officer commanders who know how to handle modern artillery equipment. Due to their knowledge of leadership they are able to organize, plan and lead the exercises and the battle capability of their units. They should be able to continue their professional development according to the needs of their branch, either individually or in organized form. Following the above-mentioned courses, they should be able to deal with specific tasks, such as those of armour piercing, mortar handling, company fire support, radio station operation.

The artillery officer needs to have knowledge of:

- how to establish the artillery fire support system and integrate it into a multi-arms battle
- operating artillery weapons and how to take care of them;
- requirements of battle elements placement and their preparation;
- meteorology and ballistics.

He/she must be able to:

- prepare and organize the battle activities of subunits;
- operate and regulate infantry weapons and equipment;
- prepare shooting practice and barrages for the artillery platoon;
- finish the required artillery fire tasks within the established time limit;

- choose and prepare the necessary battle elements and organize the battle;
- prepare and plan fire support exercises of the artillery company;
- organize leadership and staff tasks and perform them first as an artillery platoon leader, after a short preparation time as a battery leader.



Picture 1 Moments of complex field trainings of cadets (Source: www.honvedelem.hu)

Air Defence Missile (ADM)

The aim of the training is the preparation of military leaders, with advanced level degree of education, who are able to plan, prepare and lead the battle, training and everyday activities of their ADM subunits of the HDF. They also need to be able use and maintain their unit's materials, equipment and weapons. They have to maintain and expand their professional knowledge either individually or at organized courses, and this way, be able to perform other special air defence staff tasks.

Engineers

The aim of the training is to provide the HDF with military leaders, with an advanced degree of education who, based on their general and special professional knowledge (engineer recce, obstacle deployment, mine detection, pontoon bridge laying, landing deployment, road building, bridge building, frame and structure building, airport maintenance, rescue, material preparation, camouflage, water supply, and lighting), are able to plan, prepare, organize and lead the training and everyday activities of their sub-unit and be able to use and maintain their unit's materials, equipment and weapons. They need to maintain and expand their professional knowledge either individually or at organized courses.

NBC

The aim of the training is to provide the HDF with military commanders, with advanced degree of education, who, based on their professional knowledge of the NBC, are able to plan, prepare, organize and lead the training and the everyday activities of their subunit and are capable to use and maintain their unit's materials, equipment and weapons in workable condition.

CONCLUSION

In our article we have summarized the process of renewal and transformation of the basic military leadership department, and we have described its current state. It is important to emphasize that this transformation is not an isolated phenomenon. It is an integral part of the process of transformation of officers' training and further education. Besides officers' training,

the new system of the NCO training is an important determining factor since the graduated young officers must rely on well-trained NCOs.

The future tasks are to be continuously coordinated and integrated according to the requirements of branches and departments.

REFERENCES

1. The national law of higher education (2011/CCIV).
2. The national law of establishment of the National Public Service (2011/XXXVI).
3. The national law of the National University of Public Service, as well as the administrative, law enforcement and military higher education (2011/CXXXII).
4. The letter according to study and output requirements of the military officer training (HDMCSF/8-293/2011).
5. Educational program of military leadership training at bachelor level in National University of Public Service.